UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/269
27 July 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Item 71 of the provisional agenda*

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Note by the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	2
II.	REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS	2
	Bulgaria	2

* A/49/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, adopted resolution 48/84 A of 16 December 1993, entitled "Maintenance of international security", in which the Assembly, inter alia, invited Member States to provide their views on further consideration of the question of maintenance of international security.

2. Pursuant to that request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale dated 3 March 1994 to the Governments of Member States inviting them to submit, by 30 June 1994, their views on this matter in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution.

3. To date, the Secretary-General has received a reply from Bulgaria. Any further replies will be issued as addenda to the present note.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[28 June 1994]

1. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the issue of maintenance of international security and finds that this goal would best be served through full observance by all States of the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and of their other relevant obligations under international law.

2. Proceeding from its basic task of assisting the transition of Bulgarian society from a totalitarian to a pluralistic political system and market economy, the Bulgarian Government views international peace and security in an integrated manner and considers that the efforts of the international community to build peace, justice, stability and security should encompass not only military matters, but also relevant political, economic, social, humanitarian, environmental and developmental aspects.

3. In stating its views on the further consideration of the question of maintenance of international security, as requested in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 48/84 A, the Bulgarian Government would, herewith, like to emphasize the politico-military dimension of international security.

4. The end of the cold war and of the confrontation between the two major military blocs has resulted in profound changes in the international situation, which present new challenges to international security and stability and, in particular, to the United Nations system of collective security.

5. Areas of international concern that now seem increasingly relevant to the concerted efforts to maintain peace and common security include, inter alia:

(a) Settlement of regional conflicts by peaceful means, based on the conceptual and practical development of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping, both in the global framework of the United Nations and in regional forums, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE);

(b) Curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

(c) Building mutual confidence through self-restraint and coordinated steps to promote transparency in armaments and transfers of advanced technologies with military applications.

6. The Republic of Bulgaria supports the recent Security Council statement on peace-keeping operations, intended to increase the political acceptability of each new operation and its improved management. An appropriately expanded peace-keeping staff, suitable physical facilities, enlargement of the planning division, strengthened research and information functions, robust and professional public affairs capabilities, enhancement of the civilian police capacity, and more thorough training are areas where both national and international efforts should be applied. The United Nations could further strengthen the coordination between peacemaking and humanitarian assistance relief bodies.

7. Revitalization of disarmament is another key requirement in the new security environment. Efforts should continue to ensure the viability of all existing disarmament agreements as a starting-point for further strengthening their implementation and extending their scope of application.

8. All States share a common interest in nuclear-war prevention and in achieving nuclear disarmament. In the present political environment, it is more important than ever before that all States assume their respective responsibilities in ensuring that international security is maintained at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces. While States having the biggest nuclear arsenals have made and continue to make the greatest contribution towards nuclear disarmament, all nuclear-weapon States should be encouraged to take action in this regard.

9. An important concomitant of the process of nuclear disarmament is the non-proliferation regime, which addresses horizontal and vertical proliferation. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation, both for other arms-control measures and for the international trade in nuclear materials and equipment. Universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which should, moreover, be indefinitely and unconditionally extended in 1995, is a most important objective in this respect. As the Security Council declared, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

10. The Bulgarian Government also calls for the swift conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. The international community needs such a treaty that will attract the adherence of all States and contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament, and, therefore, to the enhancement of international peace

and security and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. The Conference on Disarmament should proceed intensively with its negotiations regarding such a universal and internationally verifiable treaty, with a view to bringing it to an early successful completion.

11. A non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices would be a significant contribution to nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.

12. In the context of enhancing international security, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria finds that international transfers of high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are important for the economic and social development of States. Every effort should be made to apply scientific and technological resources currently dedicated to military ends to related activities in other fields, such as economic and social development, conversion, and protection of the environment, as well as for other peaceful purposes. As part of the dialogue going on within the framework of the partnership for peace, Bulgaria appreciates conversion-related bilateral contacts in exploring the possibilities of establishing joint ventures or other kinds of cooperation of mutual interest.

13. The United Nations global mechanisms offer other forms of cooperation as well. Bulgaria, therefore, supports the appeal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to all Member States to consider methods to alleviate the problems of the painful transition to a post-disarmament world.

14. On the other hand, arms-producing States bear the special responsibility of making sure that the quantity and quality of their arms exports do not contribute to instability and conflict in other countries or regions or to the illicit arms trade. States with the most advanced defence industries and largest exports of arms have special responsibilities.

15. On a regional and subregional level the Republic of Bulgaria has, over the past few years, contributed substantially to utilizing the potential of confidence- and security-building measures in fostering the cause of European cooperative security. Bilateral military cooperation was also enhanced through the agreements which Bulgaria's Ministry of Defence signed with its counterparts in Albania, Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Based on those agreements, annual plans for specific military cooperation activities with all these countries are being implemented. The adoption, at the level of chiefs of general staffs, of bilateral Bulgarian-Turkish and Bulgarian-Greek additional measures to the Vienna document 1992 on Strengthening Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, represents an important contribution to the European confidence- and security-building measures regime.

16. The new challenges require integrated methods and approaches in addressing also the issues involved in improving the multilateral disarmament machinery. As the United Nations evolved in the course of the cold war, its mechanisms should, no doubt, be reassessed. There is a need for a coordinated system which

would allow the international community to address major disarmament, arms control and security problems promptly, flexibly and efficiently. Bulgaria supports the idea of a greater involvement of the Security Council in disarmament, arms control and security matters, particularly in the enforcement of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and in the management of crises.

17. The new spirit of cooperation in the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs is a considerable achievement ensuring increased effectiveness of its work. The ongoing reform, which is aimed at further rationalizing the work and agenda of the Assembly and its Main Committees, will definitely enable the United Nations to address the newly emerging issues related to security.

18. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria will instruct its delegation at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly to continue consultations with interested Member States on all of the above important international security matters.